

# JGTSCA



## John Gardner Traditional Small Craft Association

**Welcome to the John Gardner Chapter of the Traditional Small Craft Association**

Visit us at the Community Boat House: Building #36 UCONN Avery Point  
1084 Shennecossett Rd, Groton, CT 06340

**Spring Maintenance on Rowing Craft**  
at UCONN Avery Point Boat house Building 36

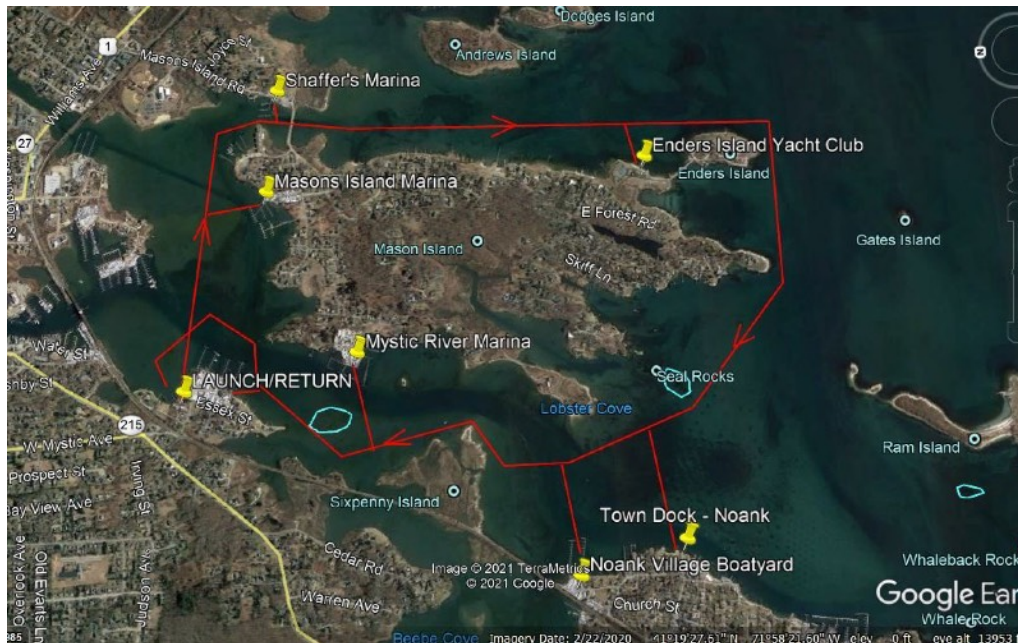
**Next Meeting: In Person Meetings will resume in Fall**  
Rowing and Sailing gatherings occur during the three seasons with special programs and visits planned throughout the year. All are welcome.

Local: [www.facebook.com/JGTSCA](http://www.facebook.com/JGTSCA) and <http://www.jgtzca.org>  
National: [www.TSCA.net](http://www.TSCA.net)

## News from around the Chapter

Welcome to the John Gardner Chapter of the Traditional Small Craft Association! Visit us at the Community Boathouse, Building #36, on the University of Connecticut's Avery Point campus in Groton, CT. We invite you to attend one of our gatherings, go for a row, a sail or get involved in our next boatbuilding project.

### The Circumnavigation of Masons Island: By Oar



As organized by Professor (Ret.) Stephen Jones to commemorate the row to the first John Gardner Small Craft Conference and Rowing Workshop in 1970, this row took a collection of rowing craft around Masons Island. Albeit in the opposite direction from Mystic Seaport from his boatyard at Willow Point, the spirit was there. It blew blustery the weekend before when we commemorated the 50th Anniversary on Australia Beach at Mystic Seaport Museum. A week later the weather was beautiful: clear, in the 70's with a light southwesterly to give some air.

The craft were many and varied, ranging from Steve's Chamberlain skiff from 1971 to a sleek new CLC sliding seat rowing craft. In between, the craft varied from short and stout to slim and sleek. Sort of like the folks who rowed them...

But let's let the folks who participated describe the adventure in dispatches as received immediately after the event:

This from Steve himself:

"The rounding of the Monastery was fog free, but the recent opening of the Noank Harbor short cut channel to the east poured wake wallowers in closer than I'd anticipated. The Chamberlain rose to the damp occasion and never a sip spilled over her bow! In Egret we had a new crew (my originals having gigs in St Lawrence River & Block Island). And this was her first voyage in several years so we had stuff to figure out. (the added weight brought her down a seam from her soaking up regimen.) But, all in all nobody drowned & no vessel sank! Thanks for your help. It seems such a long time since we all met at the Bat Cave on this project two years ago!"

And from fellow organizer Dane Rochelle:

"All seems to have gone well. Even the 'Cape Horn'/Masons Point passage went without incident and actually kind of invigorated the group's sense of adventure. Rowing against about ~2 knot current is slow going, but we made it. Group conversation in the shade back at 'the Yard' following completion of the row finished the experience. A warm-water foot soak in the back yard back home followed by a nap wrapped it up for me."

And from Sharon Brown:



"Still high from the day. High and strangely not that tired. Probably feel it in my forearms tomorrow. See photo of Tim, Stewart, and Steve in EGRET, the Chamberlain Dory Skiff Barry Thomas launched in 1972, after taking John's first Thursday boatbuilding class Jan-April 1971, and before coming to MSM in 1972. It was the second boat he built. Also, almost home after rowing around Mason's Island this morning. This was my first and only stop/respice. I needed to hydrate!! It was a slog in that silly little boat. But it is buoyant!! Designed to carry a load aft, bob like a yo yo, and spin round and round. I kept thinking of all the wealthy yachtsmen that made it from the mooring

and back with “the partner” and a case of Budweiser or Schaefer’s. (see photo of Sharon in the Boat). I made it and wasn’t last! Thank you for your encouragement. Didn’t take my camera out of the bag or my hands off the oars. So phone is fall back: start, stop and home.”

And later from Steve for publication:



#### **STEVE HANDS CHARTS TO BILL MEIER, MATT MCKENZIE, BRIAN COOPER AND NICHOLAS ALLEY**

“Postponed a year by Covid and another week by the Memorial Day weather, we finally got the 50 year Reenactment of the row that in part kicked off the first Traditional Small Craft Workshop. With the Seaport not available an additional week, we used the lower estuary for our route, circumnavigating Mason’s Island and in so doing circling Enders Island and Abigail’s Hat (“No Wake Island”) to return to West Mystic Woodenboat at Willow Point. Some of the flotilla even traversed the recent cut through Six Penny where the old 1930’s CCC mosquito ditching has finally worn through. The weather was perfect and the “Noank Wall” of fog that had hung off the estuary mouth the previous day was but a smattering of refreshing mist in the 78 degree temperature. There were some dozen or so boats in a variety of styles. The recently replanked Chamberlain dory skiff built by Barry Thomas 49 years ago more or less led the procession and a small motorized 2 1/2 hp outboard with a crew including two dogs served as convoy.

Rowers spotted three osprey nests with chicks and a small flock of foraging oyster catchers and a few egrets and mallards. Steep wakes of outbound cruisers tested the

buoyancy and seamanship of the flotilla rounding the St. Edmund’s Monastery. Although some participants finished much earlier, the last of the flotilla was back within 3 hours.

Donuts were provided at the captain’s meeting and Watermelon & Lemonade were served under sun umbrellas at the conclusion. I send you this in my best newsletter style. I would have liked to include names, but where to stop? So many contributed. None of this, including the work by Andrew Guest and Dane on Egret and Sharon and Bob McKenna, Doc Sutphen and Ben on “Oar, Sail & Saw”, none of this would have happened had we not started it all a year ago!”



**STEVE, TIM AND STEWART LEAD IN “EGRET”**



**BILL MEIER’S FRESHLY VARNISHED NATOMA SKIFF**



**DANE ROCHELLE, BILL MEIER AND SHARON BROWN FOLLOW MATT MCKENZIE AT THE LAUNCH**

## Happenings at our Community Boathouse:

This just in from our Dory-Master, Phil Behney:

“There are two Dorries available to members now located at the Avery Point Sailing beach. The “Professor Jones” and Number 4 Dory “Pat”. They each have a pair of oars tucked under the thwarts. More oars (for double rowers) and PFD’s are located at the boathouse. Presently they are next to the kayak rack and I will be putting on a cable with a combination lock per Prescott Littlefield’s request for security purposes. Prescott will try and get students and faculty to use the boats (with supervision). I will plan to keep the two boats there as long as practicable (Probably early November). The Dorries now have a combination lock for safety/security reasons. The combination is 1470. Please replace boats and re-lock when finished using the boats. Prescott was kind enough to provide the lock and cable. Remember there are extra oars and life jackets in the boathouse. Please be safe, and respect the privilege we have to use the beach. (A big thanks to Phil and Prescott for making this happen).

I will be stopping at the boathouse a few evenings during the upcoming weeks to clean up from working the boats and to continue shop projects including the Swampscott Dory. I had to do a temporary step repair on the side deck, but there are many more outside maintenance issues that need our attention: Including exterior paint, a large sink hole to be filled behind building, window replacement, plus some siding repairs here and there. I think it behooves us to do as much as possible without involving the school. I feel it is important to keep the outside appearance good so we don’t bring unfavorable attention to our shop.

The racks at Mystic Shipyard East (MSYE) still have two boats.

The racks at MSYE are becoming overgrown with the wild Bamboo again, I have already cleared it once this year and several times last year, I would definitely welcome any help in that area too. Phil B”

Member and Webmaster John Hacunda heard the call to control the bamboo and responded with the following:

“Hi Phil,

I did get a chance to chop down the bamboo shoots today. I disposed of the cuttings in the boatyard dumpster after asking permission from an employee.

I also brought down a couple of swimming noodles and put them in the garage. I find they act as nice rollers if I'm launching a boat by myself.

As I was finishing the work, Ron and Lee Reinhart arrived to launch their kayaks. Ron mentioned that he might like to revive his bicycle-powered pontoon boat build sometime.

Fair winds,

John”

## Coming Events:

Save the Date: **September 15th, 11 am to 2 pm.** Matt McKenzie plans to again visit our Community Boathouse with his “**Sailor’s Skills” Class**. This is an opportunity for our members to directly share with UCONN AP students our interests, motivations and knowledge. Contact Brian Cooper or myself if you would like to participate with a short Show & Tell or be available for direct conversations with students, which they particularly enjoy.

Here is a synopsis from Matt:

“I’m teaching my sailors’ skill course on Wednesdays from 11:15 to 1:45 this fall, beginning September first. Would it be possible to bring my students to the boat shed on one those meetings to meet your crew, learn about the society, learn about boat building, and perhaps arrange a follow-on weekend row? As before, I’m happy to let our TSCA colleagues drive the bus as for what gets covered in the day—I am sure all of it will be relevant. 9/15 for the student meet-up will be a good date; then the iron is still hot for them to join us for the Bluff Point Oar & Sail outing 9/18. I will also let them know about that event when I reach out to them next week so they can plan ahead.” Prof. Matt McKenzie

**Sail & Oar Outing September 18th, 10 am to 2 pm.** This is becoming an annual opportunity to show the versatility of our type of boats. We launch at the ramp beside the ball field on the east side of Airfield Road just south of Route 1. We then duck under the Amtrak bridge, row our way between the old trolley line abutments then nose in on the airfield side to raise sail (for those of us who plan to sail as well as row). We then sail to our heart’s content in the smooth water behind Bushy Point Beach, the back side of which provides a handy place to pull in and take a break. We usually make it back to the ramp by about 2 pm. Bring a lunch or a snack. The location favors our shallow draft boats but the tide should be in for the morning, falling in the afternoon. Let Brian Cooper or myself, Bill Rutherford, know if you plan to attend and please let Phil Behney know if you would like to row one of the Chapter’s dories.

## Happenings at Mystic Seaport Museum

Arts on the Quad July 31st: **Eastern Connecticut Symphony Brass**. Doors open at 5:00 p.m.; the performances begins at 6:30 p.m.

**Moby-Dick & Melville Celebration** August 1st: Readings and Performances: Participants are invited to join in on the reading of the novel as select scenes are brought to life at various locations across the Museum.

**WoodenBoat Show** August 20-22: More than 100 traditional and classic wooden boats of every type will be on display, from hand-crafted kayaks to mahogany runabouts & classic day sailers.

**Marine Engine Exposition:** August 21-22: One of the oldest major marine engine shows in the nation with more than 300 exhibits.

**Summer Sailing Camps** see: <https://www.mysticseaport.org/learn/summer-camps/>

Visit <https://www.mysticseaport.org/calendar/> for a complete list of activities.

## Mystic Seaport Ship Modelers



### HMS PEGASUS (1776)

This just in from Olha Batchvarov:

“After receiving many requests from my channel's subscribers to create a step-by-step guide for beginners, I decided to start this project. I chose a kit from the Italian manufacturer Amati, in an adequate price range and a popular model. In terms of complexity, it is positioned for the intermediate level, but if you look closely - in fact it will be very easy to build.” Visit <https://www.shipphotographer.com/post/hms-pegasus-1776-in-scale-1-64-manufactured-by-amati-italy-step-by-step-guide-for-beginners?>

MSSM Organizer Bob Andrie reports:

“The Mystic Seaport Ship Modelers met Saturday, July 10th at 10 am then put on a show for the public which included both static displays and R/C running in the river. In August we will meet at the Engine Show/ Woodenboat Show, which runs 3 days-- Friday through Sunday Aug. 20 to 22nd. We will be in and in front of the Paint Shop as usual, and there will be a temporary pond to run boats all three days. We hope to make a big showing--there should be plenty of room. Be sure to sign up beforehand on the Seaport website.”

If you would like to get on Bob's mailing list, let me (Bill R.) know and I will share his email address with you.

## From the Side Deck:

We have not had an in-person meeting for a while so we wanted to share that the JGTSCA Board, in response to an inquiry, decided not to rent or sell an Avery Point Dory.

We decided this based on understanding that a major part of our mission is to provide access to these craft for our members. Part of that is the camaraderie of working together maintaining them, hauling them around to various rowing events and sharing them with new members. As access to the water becomes ever more limited, having the opportunity to share a boat that is simply slid into the water and back out again upon return is highly valued. We strive to keep our dues, currently at \$15/ year, very low by doing the maintenance work ourselves and encourage new members to join to use these traditional boats. The goal is in continuing the interest and use of traditional small craft. Some members go on to build their own.

Interestingly, we are now seeing kayakers as they change their personal situations (dare I say get older?) reach out to embrace this non-internal combustion way to enjoy time on the water.

I think it important to note that we members of the Traditional Small Craft Association use our boats; they are not treated as fragile replicas. We do not sit around in lawn chairs and look at them but rather take them out, row and sail them and if necessary patch them back up again when wear occurs. Secondary to their use is the study and understanding of the skills necessary to build in the traditional manner.

That being said, we are not rigorous as to the hull materials nor adhesives used. It is the shape of the hulls and their rigs that is important, the efficiency of which peaked just before the advent of the gasoline engine. These boats are seaworthy, easy to row and sail well with simple, fisherman style rigs. In short, the perfect multi-purpose boats for today's young families who wish to enjoy life on the water free from internal combustion engines. That's how we started. A simple rowing boat with a sail added. Now our kids and grandkids all have their own.

We look forward to gathering again when Fall arrives. In the meantime, enjoy your time out on the water with friends and family.

Fair Winds and Following Tides,  
Bill & Karen Rutherford  
Smallcrafter@gmail.com

**OUR PEAPOD AT A LUNCH BREAK DURING THIS YEAR'S  
SMALL REACH REGATTA IN BROOKLIN, MAINE. DAN  
NELSON ALSO ATTENDED WITH HIS SW DORY.**

